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PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richard Mallinson, et al.) Atty. Dkt. No. 5820.617  
Serial No.: ~~Not Yet Assigned~~ 10/033 278  
Filed: ~~Herewith~~ 12-21-01 )  
For: APPARATUS FOR STREAM )  
CONVERSIONS AND METHODS OF USE)

Box IDS  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

List of Sections Forming Part of This  
Information Disclosure Statement

The following sections are being submitted for this  
Information Disclosure Statement:

1. ☒ Preliminary Statements
2. ☒ Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449)
3. ☒ Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications
4. ☒ Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted
5. ☐ Cumulative Patents or Publications
6. ☒ Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement
7. ☐ Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items

- 7A.    ☐    EPO Search Report
- 7B.    ☐    English Language Version
8.    ☐    Translation(s)       of       Non-English Language Documents
9.    ☐    Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (Optional)
10.   ☒   Identification of Person(s) Making this Information Disclosure Statement

**Section 1.       Preliminary Statements**

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

**Section 2.       Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449)**

- ☒ A completed Form PTO/SB/08A and/or Form PTO/SB/08B is attached hereto.

**Section 3.       Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications (Information Not Listed in Form PTO-1449)**

The present invention relates in general to an apparatus and method for converting a gas stream containing hydrocarbons to a reaction product containing at least one carbon atom, and more particularly to an apparatus and method for converting a gas stream containing hydrocarbons, such as methane gas, to a reaction product containing at least one carbon atom by reacting the hydrocarbon containing gas stream with a plasma discharge generated between two electrodes.

**Section 4. Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted**

This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. 09/597,289, filed on June 20, 2000 (date).

*(complete the following, if applicable)*

[X] This application also relies, under 35 U.S.C. 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. 09/006,739 now U.S. Patent No. 6,159,432, filed on January 14, 1998 (date).

The following references were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application(s) and therefore, are not required to be provided in this application:

3,205,162	MacLean	09/07/1965
4,727,207	Paparizos, et al.	02/23/1988
4,954,320	Birmingham, et al.	09/1990
5,015,799	Walker, et al.	05/14/1991
5,019,355	Sackinger	05/28/1991
5,077,446	Kolts, et al.	12/31/1991
5,211,919	Conrad	05/18/1993
5,427,747	Kong, et al.	06/27/1995
5,609,736	Yamamoto	10/1998
5,817,218	Hayashi, et al.	10/1998
5,877,395	Emery	03/1999

**Section 5. Cumulative Patents or Publications**

**STATEMENT**

\_\_\_\_\_ is cumulative of the following patents or publications listed on Form PTO-1449:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c), a copy of only \_\_\_\_\_ is being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement.

**Section 6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement**

Legible copies of all items listed in Form PTO-1449 (Modified) accompany this information disclosure statement.

☐ Exception(s) to above:

☐ Items in prior application from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.

☐ Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

\* Copies of the following new prior art are attached hereto and are listed below:

4,995,805	Hilliard	02/26/1991
6,159,432	Mallinson, et al.	12/12/2000
WO94/17905	Anmelder, et al.	08/18/1994
WO96/16731	Rey, et al.	06/06/1996

**Section 7. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items**

**Section 7A. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items - EPO Search Report**

The relevance with respect to the following citations listed on Form PTO-1449:

is submitted on the basis of accompanying:

*(check the appropriate item)*

☐ EPO search report that is in the English language,

☐ EPO search report that is not in the English language and that is accompanied also by an English language version of the EPO search report,

that issued on the corresponding European patent application.

**Section 7B. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items - English Language Version of EPO Search Report**

**Section 8. Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents**

☐ Submitted herewith is an English translation of the following foreign language patents, publications or information or of those portions of those patents, publications or information considered to be material:

*(complete the following, if applicable)*

- ☐ No English language translations of the foreign language parents, publications or information or parts thereof are readily available, except for those listed above.
- ☐ The following foreign language documents submitted are believed to be the equivalent or substantial equivalent of the English language documents identified below, which are also submitted herewith.

**Section 9. Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (OPTIONAL)**

**Section 10. Identification of Person(s) Making this INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The person making this statement is the agent/attorney who signs below on the basis of the information:

- ☐ supplied by the inventor(s)
- ☐ supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)).
- ☒ in the agent/attorney's file

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			<b>Complete if Known</b>		
			<b>Application Number</b>	Not Yet Assigned	
			<b>Filing Date</b>	Herewith	
			<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Richard Mallinson, et al.	
			<b>Group Art Unit</b>	Not Yet Assigned	
			<b>Examiner Name</b>	Not Yet Assigned	
			<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	5820.617	
Sheet	1	of	2		

[illegible][illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				<b>Application Number</b>	Not Yet Assigned
				<b>Filing Date</b>	Herewith
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Richard Mallinson, et al.
				<b>Group Art Unit</b>	Not Yet Assigned
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	Not Yet Assigned
<b>Sheet</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	<b>5820.617</b>

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.